

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A system to structure and manage a configuration of an industrial product, taking into account ~~of~~ selected options ~~selected by a customer,~~ comprising:

means ~~for processing~~ for describing a set of technical objects, each technical object either representing a product function or describing an implementation method ~~for making a product configuration~~ for the product function, the set of technical objects representing manufacturing options of the industrial product;

means for storing ~~to be updated for clarifying~~ and updating a definition of each technical object and of its inter-relations with other of the technical objects in the product configuration ~~by, said definition comprising~~ an expression of rules and constraints; and

means for data input and means ~~for displaying~~ for interactively and dynamically using said means for storing and updating during ~~definition~~ said configuration of the product; ~~through the selection of the options by the customer.~~

Claim 2 (Original): A system according to claim 1, wherein each technical object represents either a function of an aircraft or describes an implementation method of the aircraft function to create an aircraft configuration.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A system according to claim 1, wherein the means for processing comprises:

a knowledge management module;

a contract management module;

an administration module; and

a mass management module;

~~all working on the means for storing.~~

Claim 4 (Original): A system according to claim 3,

wherein the knowledge management module is configured to manage technical objects each representing an aircraft function,

wherein the contract management module is configured to manage fleet configurations of aircraft;

wherein the administration module is configured to manage user profiles, and

wherein the mass management module is configured to manage mass of a customized configuration from data supplied from the contract management module.

Claim 5 (Original): A system according to claim 1, wherein the industrial product is considered as a set of functions in a functional approach.

Claim 6 (Original): A system according to claim 3, wherein the contract management module works in a connected or disconnected mode.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A system according to claim 1, wherein ~~in the means for processing~~ a technical object oriented configuration is used in which ~~the options~~ the product functions and corresponding implementation methods are selected directly in a list sorted by at least one of ATA chapter, job category, ~~and~~ or sales policy, the selection being made either individually or globally using a global procedure that joins a possible application and a weight to a set of options in a same functional domain.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A system according to claim 1, wherein ~~in the a means for processing~~ a functional oriented configuration is used that supplies a functional approach to directly select technical objects, specifying required properties of a functional characteristic.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A system according to claim 1 ~~+~~ 3, wherein the means for ~~processing~~ describing allows a contract manager to start a configuration checking process at any time.

Claim 10 (Original): A system according to claim 1, wherein the industrial product is an aircraft.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A system to structure and manage a configuration of an industrial product, taking into account ~~of~~ selected options ~~selected by a customer~~, comprising:

a processor configured to describe a set of technical objects, each technical object either representing a product function or describing an implementation method ~~for making a product configuration~~ for the product function, the set of technical objects representing manufacturing options of the industrial product;

a database to ~~be updated for clarifying~~ store and update a definition of each technical object and of its inter-relations with other of the technical objects in the product configuration ~~by, said definition comprising~~ an expression of rules and constraints; and

a data input and display for interactively and dynamically using said database during ~~definition~~ said configuration of the product, ~~through selection of the options by the customer.~~

Claim 12 (Original): A system according to claim 11, wherein each technical object represents either a function of an aircraft or describes an implementation method of the aircraft function to create an aircraft configuration.

Claim 13 (Original): A system according to claim 11, wherein the processor comprises:

a knowledge management module;

a contract management module;

an administration module; and

a mass management module;

all working on the database.

Claim 14 (Original): A system according to claim 13,

wherein the knowledge management module is configured to manage technical objects each representing an aircraft function,

wherein the contract management module is configured to manage fleet configurations of aircraft;

wherein the administration module is configured to manage user profiles, and

wherein the mass management module is configured to manage mass of a customized configuration from data supplied from the contract management module.

Claim 15 (Original): A system according to claim 11, wherein the industrial product is considered as a set of functions in a functional approach.

Claim 16 (Original): A system according to claim 13, wherein the contract management module works in a connected or disconnected mode.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A system according to claim 11, wherein ~~in the processor~~ a technical object oriented configuration is used in which ~~the options~~ the product functions and corresponding implementation methods are selected directly in a list sorted by at least one of ATA chapter, job category, ~~and~~ or sales policy, the selection being made either individually or globally using a global procedure that joins a possible application and a weight to a set of options in a same functional domain.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A system according to claim 11, wherein ~~in the processor~~ a functional oriented configuration is used that supplies a functional approach to directly select technical objects, specifying required properties of a functional characteristic.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A system according to claim ~~11~~ 13, wherein the processor allows a contract manager to start a configuration checking process at any time.

Claim 20 (Original): A system according to claim 11, wherein the industrial product is an aircraft.

Claim 21 (New): A system according to claim 11, further comprising a knowledge management module.

Claim 22 (New): A system according to claim 21, wherein the knowledge management module is configured to manage technical objects each representing an aircraft function.

Claim 23 (New): A system according to claim 11, further comprising a contract management module.

Claim 24 (New): A system according to claim 23, wherein the contract management module is configured to manage fleet configurations of aircraft.

Claim 25 (New): A system according to claim 11, further comprising an administration module.

Claim 26 (New): A system according to claim 25, wherein the administration module is configured to manage user profiles.

Claim 27 (New): A system according to claim 11, further comprising a mass management module.

Claim 28 (New): A system according to claim 27, wherein the mass management module is configured to manage mass of a customized configuration from data supplied from a contract management module.